

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-13 and 16-17, and rejected claim 9. In this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claim 9 to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-13 and 16-17. Applicants also note the Examiner's diligence in reviewing and signing the Information Disclosure Statements bearing the OIPE dates: 05/18/2004 (9 pages) and 05/14/2004 (3 pages).

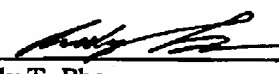
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1-4, 7-8, 10-13 and 16-17, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the final rejection is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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